Sacrifice, Ditterness and a call for honor

Former S.J. resident nominated for the nation's highest medal

By ALAN GUENTHER Courier-Post Staff

After he saved his Army reconnaissance unit award to the Pentagon. by blowing up enemy machine-gunners in Vieta wall of napalm-fueled

fire to pull another soldier to safety, David Christian returned home to have valor questioned

In 1972, a dean of admissions at Rutgers-Camden doughted the authenticity of his war

wounds Christian said Friday handedly charged a maduring an interview at chine gun nest, lobbed a the Adelphia Restaurant hand grenade and then in Deptford.

In front of other students, the dean asked him But that wasn't the Christian to remove his shirt and poked his bul- not the only reason Chrislet-hole scars with the tian, now 55, is being eraser tip of a pencil.

Times are different to-

school dean, Rayman Solomon, said Rutgers goes Four hours of fighting enout of its way to treat stu-sued. dent-soldiers and returning veterans with respect.

were real proved by 33 surgeries, seven Purple Hearts, two Silver Stars onet - and screaming and a Distinguished Service Cross medal.

But there is one medal missing for Christian.

He doesn't have the country's highest recognition of service.

Last month, during a reunion in Florida of his men - who called them-

selves Christian's Butchers - two Florida congressmen agreed to nominate Christian for the

On Friday, U.S. Rep. Rob Andrews, D-Haddon nam, after he waded into Heights, also agreed to ask the Pentagon to give

Christian the highest hon-

Accord ing to his nomination for the med-Christian's unit was pinned down by North Vietnamese fire

on Oct. 29. 1968.



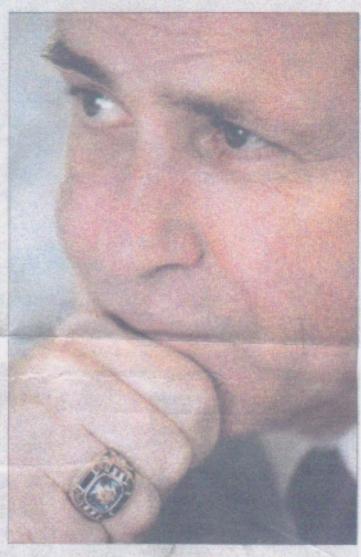
He singledropped to the ground as the earth shock beneath end of the battle. And it's nominated.

After he blew up the machine gun nest 30 The current law North Vietnamese arrived as reinforcements.

Finally, out of ammunition, fighting on "guts Christian's wounds and adrenaline," Christian picked up the only weapon he had -his bayrebel yells, took on the enemy alone, according to his Medal of Honor nomi-

"Christian's face was Medal of Honor - the streaked with blood and his fatigue lacket was soaked with blood," the nomination says. Al-

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One of the most decerated combat soldiers to have served in Vietnam, David Christian (above) wears a ring commemorating his service in the Army. Christian (left) is comforted by friend Ken Gewertz at Adelphia Restaurant In Deptford as he recounts painful memories of how he was treated in the 1970s at the Rutgers-Camden School of Law.

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